

What is claimed is:

1. A method of removing small negatively charged organic molecules from a biological sample mixture, the method comprising:

- 5 providing a solid-phase extraction material comprising a hydrophilic
solid support at least partially embedded within a hydrophobic matrix;
providing a biological sample mixture; and
contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction
material to remove at least a portion of the small negatively charged organic
molecules from the biological sample mixture.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic solid support is in the form of particles.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the particles have an average particle size of at least about 5 nm.

4. The method of claim ~~3~~ wherein the particles have an average particle size of no greater than about 500 microns.

20 5. The method of claim ~~1~~ wherein the hydrophilic solid support comprises a material selected from the group consisting of inorganic particles, naturally occurring organic polymeric materials, synthetic or modified naturally occurring organic polymers, vitreous materials, plastics that are intrinsically hydrophilic or modified to be hydrophilic by the presence of hydrophilic functional groups, and
25 mixtures thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic matrix comprises a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of a silicone, polyvinyl butyral, polyolefin, natural or synthetic rubber, fluorinated polymer, acrylate,
30 epoxy, and combinations thereof.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein the hydrophobic matrix comprises an adhesive.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the adhesive is a pressure sensitive
5 adhesive.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample mixture is a nucleic acid sequencing reaction mixture.

10 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules are selected from the group consisting of dye-labeled terminators, primers, degraded dye molecules, deoxynucleotide triphosphates, and mixtures thereof.

15 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules comprise dye-labeled terminators.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the dye-labeled terminators are selected from the group consisting of dideoxynucleotide triphosphates,
20 dideoxynucleotide diphosphates, dideoxynucleotide monophosphates, dideoxynucleosides, and combinations thereof.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction material is carried out under conditions
25 effective to remove substantially all the dye-labeled terminators from the biological sample mixture.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample mixture is a PCR reaction mixture.

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15. The method of claim 14 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules are selected from the group consisting of primers, degraded dye molecules, deoxynucleotide triphosphates, and mixtures thereof.
- 5 16. The method of claim 15 wherein contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase ~~extraction~~ material is carried out under conditions effective to remove substantially all the primers from the biological sample mixture.
- 10 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules have a molecular ~~weight~~ of less than about 6,000.
18. The method of claim 1 which is carried out in a microfluidic device.
- 15 19. The method of claim 1 wherein contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase ~~extraction~~ material comprises agitating while contacting.
20. A method of removing small negatively charged organic molecules from a biological sample mixture, the method comprising:
- 20 providing a solid-phase extraction material comprising hydrophilic particles disposed on a layer of a hydrophobic matrix and at least partially embedded therein;
- providing a biological sample mixture; and
- contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction
- 25 material to remove at least a portion of the small negatively charged organic molecules from the biological sample mixture.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the particles are disposed on the layer of hydrophobic matrix at a density of about 0.1 mg per 12 mm² surface area to
- 30 about 5 mg per 12 mm² surface area.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the layer of hydrophobic material comprises a layer of an adhesive.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of an adhesive comprises a layer of a pressure sensitive adhesive.

24. The method of claim 20 which is carried out in a microfluidic device.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction material comprises agitating while contacting.

26. A method of removing small negatively charged organic molecules from a biological sample mixture, the method comprising:

providing a solid-phase extraction material comprising a hydrophilic solid support at least partially embedded within a hydrophobic matrix;
providing a biological sample mixture; and
contacting the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction material to remove at least a portion of the small negatively charged organic molecules from the biological sample mixture;
wherein the biological sample mixture comprises a nucleic acid amplification reaction mixture.

27. The method of claim 26 which is carried out in a microfluidic device.

28. A method of removing small negatively charged organic molecules from a biological sample mixture, the method comprising:

providing a device comprising at least one process array that comprises a solid-phase extraction material, wherein the solid-phase extraction material comprises a hydrophilic solid support at least partially embedded within a hydrophobic matrix;

providing a biological sample mixture in the at least one process array;
and

transferring the biological sample mixture within the at least one process
array, wherein the biological sample mixture and the solid-phase extraction
5 material remain in contact for a sufficient time to remove at least a portion of
the small negatively charged organic molecules from the biological sample
mixture.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the hydrophilic solid support is in the
10 form of particles.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the particles have an average particle
size of at least about 5 nm.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the particles have an average particle
15 size of no greater than about 500 microns.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein the hydrophilic solid support comprises
a material selected from the group consisting of inorganic particles, naturally
20 occurring organic polymeric materials, synthetic or modified naturally occurring
organic polymers, vitreous materials, plastics that are intrinsically hydrophilic or
modified to be hydrophilic by the presence of hydrophilic functional groups, and
mixtures thereof.

33. The method of claim 28 wherein the hydrophobic matrix comprises a
25 polymeric material selected from the group consisting of a silicone, polyvinyl
butyral, polyolefin, natural or synthetic rubber, fluorinated polymer, acrylate,
epoxy, and combinations thereof.

34. The method of claim 28 wherein the hydrophobic matrix comprises an
30 adhesive.

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35. The method of claim 34 wherein the adhesive is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

36. The method of claim 28 wherein the biological sample mixture is a nucleic acid sequencing reaction mixture.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules are selected from the group consisting of dye-labeled terminators, primers, degraded dye molecules, deoxynucleotide triphosphates, and mixtures thereof.

38. The method of claim 36 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules comprise dye-labeled terminators.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the dye-labeled terminators are selected from the group consisting of dideoxynucleotide triphosphates, dideoxynucleotide diphosphates, dideoxynucleotide monophosphates, dideoxynucleosides, and combinations thereof.

40. The method of claim 38 wherein the biological sample mixture with the solid-phase extraction material are contacted under conditions effective to remove substantially all the dye-labeled terminators from the biological sample mixture.

41. The method of claim 28 wherein the biological sample mixture is a PCR reaction mixture.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules are selected from the group consisting of primers, degraded dye molecules, deoxynucleotide triphosphates, and mixtures thereof.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the biological sample mixture and the solid-phase extraction material are contacted under conditions effective to remove substantially all the primers from the biological sample mixture.

5 44. The method of claim 28 wherein the small negatively charged organic molecules have a molecular weight of less than about 6,000.

45. The method of claim 28 wherein the biological sample mixture and the solid-phase extraction material are agitated while in contact.

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46. The method of claim 28 wherein the at least one process array comprises a loading chamber, at least one process chamber, and at least one distribution channel connecting the loading chamber and the at least one process chamber.

15 47. A method of removing small negatively charged organic molecules from a biological sample mixture, the method comprising:

providing a device comprising at least one process array that comprises a solid-phase extraction material, wherein the solid-phase extraction material comprises hydrophilic particles disposed on a layer of a hydrophobic matrix and at least partially embedded therein;

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providing a biological sample mixture in the at least one process array;

and

transferring the biological sample mixture within the at least one process array, wherein the biological sample mixture and the solid-phase extraction material remain in contact for a sufficient time to remove at least a portion of the small negatively charged organic molecules from the biological sample mixture.

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48. The method of claim 47 wherein the biological sample mixture comprises a nucleic acid amplification reaction mixture.

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FOOTNOTES

49. The method of claim 47 wherein the biological sample mixture and the solid-phase extraction material are agitated while in contact.

50. A device for use in removing small negatively charged organic
5 molecules from a biological sample mixture, the device comprising:
a plurality of process arrays, wherein each process array of the plurality of process arrays comprises:
a plurality of process chambers, each of the process chambers
defining a volume for containing a biological sample mixture;
10 at least one distribution channel connecting the plurality of process chambers; and
a solid-phase extraction material within at least one of the process arrays, wherein the solid-phase extraction material comprises a hydrophilic solid support at least partially embedded within a hydrophobic matrix.

51. The device of claim 50 further comprising a plurality of valves, wherein at least one of the valves is located along the at least one distribution channel.

52. The device of claim 50 wherein the plurality of process arrays comprises
20 a plurality of independent ~~process~~ arrays.

53. The device of claim 50 wherein the plurality of process arrays are arranged radially on the device.

25 54. The device of claim 50 wherein the hydrophobic matrix comprises an adhesive.

55. The device of claim 54 wherein the hydrophilic solid support is in the form of particles pattern coated on a layer of the hydrophobic matrix.

30 56. An analytical receptacle comprising one or more reservoirs and a surface with a cover film adhered to the surface and enclosing the one or more

reservoirs; wherein the cover film comprises a backing and an adhesive disposed on at least one major surface of the backing and in contact with the receptacle surface; wherein at least a portion of the adhesive has a solid-phase extraction material disposed thereon; wherein the solid-phase extraction material comprises hydrophilic particles at least partially embedded in the adhesive.

57. The analytical receptacle of claim 56 wherein the particles have an average particle size of at least about 5 nm.

58. The analytical receptacle of claim 57 wherein the particles have an average particle size of no greater than about 500 microns.

59. The analytical receptacle of claim 56 wherein the particles are disposed on the layer of adhesive at a density of about 0.1 mg per 12 mm² surface area to about 5 mg per 12 mm² surface area.

60. The analytical receptacle of claim 56 wherein the particles are pattern coated on the adhesive.

61. An analytical receptacle comprising a plurality of reservoirs adapted for receipt of a biological sample mixture, wherein at least one reservoir comprises a solid-phase extraction material comprising hydrophilic particles at least partially embedded in a hydrophobic matrix.

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